

Seattle Permits

— part of a multi-departmental City of Seattle series on getting a permit

Street Tree Planting Procedures

The City of Seattle encourages the planting of trees along public streets. A property owner may plant a tree in a street planting strip if he or she first obtains a "landscaping and beautification" permit from the City Arborist.

There is no charge for the permit, but the City Arborist must approve the type of tree and the planting location before issuing the permit. The property owner will be responsible for properly planting and maintaining the tree.

When selecting an appropriate tree type to be planted along City streets, remember the following:

- Trees can only be planted along City streets when there is a curbed roadway and the planting strip area is at least 5 feet wide (5-1/2 feet measured from the face of the curb).
- See the *Seattle Street Tree List* for small, upright or columnar, medium, and large-scale trees approved by the City Arborist. Trees other than those listed will be considered. Consult with the City Arborist for approval.
- Only choose small-scale street trees when planting under power lines.
- Plant all small-scale trees between 20 and 25 feet apart (measured from the center of the tree). Plant all upright or columnar trees between 15 and 25 feet apart. Plant all medium-scale trees between 25 and 35 feet apart.

Trees must be planted a minimum of:

- 3-1/2 feet back from the face of the curb
- 5 feet from utility lines
- 10 feet from power poles
- 7-1/2 feet from driveways
- 20 feet from street lights or other existing tree
- 30 feet from an intersection

Call 1-800-424-5555 to locate all underground utilities before asking the City Arborist for an inspection.

Call the City Arborist to request an inspection of the proposed tree planting location. The arborist may need to coordinate with the Seattle Public Utilities if the proposed tree is near water, storm or sewer mains. Issuance of the permit before planting the tree is required.

Please fill out attached application form and return to the City Arborist.

For more information contact the City Arborist:

Seattle Department of Transportation
Suite 3900, Seattle Municipal Tower
700 5th Avenue
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, Washington 98124-4996

Phone: (206) 684-7649

www.seattle.gov/transportation



City of Seattle
Seattle Department of Transportation

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor Grace Crunican, Director

700 5th Avenue, Suite 3900
P.O. Box 34996
Seattle, WA 98124-4996
(206) 684-ROAD (7623)

Please fill out this application and return to us at:
City Arborist, Seattle Municipal Tower,
700 – 5th Avenue #3900, Seattle, WA 98124-4996.
Fax number, 206-615-0899.

When we receive your application we will make a site visit and mark out where trees can be planted safely and correctly.

Usually the wait time for a permit is two weeks from getting the applications.

STREET TREE PLANTING QUESTIONNAIRE

Name: _____

Mailing Address (include zip code): _____

Phone: _____

Planting address if different from mailing address: _____

SITE AND UTILITY INFORMATION

1. Do you own the home at the planting location? _____

2. What is the width of your planting strip? Measure from the inside edge of the curb to the edge of the sidewalk. _____

3. Does your planting strip have overhead telephone and/or power lines running parallel to the curb?

4. What is the ground cover on your planting strip (grass, gravel, dirt, concrete etc..)?

5. How many, and what kinds of trees are you proposing to plant (Refer to Tree Planting Standards).

Quantity	Species
----------	---------

Choice A.	_____	_____
-----------	-------	-------

Choice B.	_____	_____
-----------	-------	-------

The diagram consists of three nested rectangles. The innermost rectangle is white and contains the text: "Please show the outline of house Locations and property addresses." The middle rectangle is light gray and surrounds the white one; it is labeled "Typical Sidewalk Area" at its bottom center. The outermost rectangle is white and surrounds the gray one; it is labeled "Typical Planting Strip Area" at its bottom center. The entire diagram is enclosed in a double-line black border.

Street Name: _____

Where relevant, please indicate (on the map) the approximate location of the following items by using the symbols that are listed below.

- ⊕ **Existing Tree**
- ⊘ **Existing Tree to be Removed**
- + **Desired Location of tree(s) to be planted**
- ▽ **Fire Hydrant**
- **Street Light**

If a driveway exists, please draw its approximate location in relation to all other existing site features